

The EESE Board Legislative Subcommittee held a conference call at 3:30 on May 14, 2013

Attendees: Ben Frost, Deborah Schachter, Cindy Gunn, Debra Hale, Gil Gilineau, Cindy Carroll, Brandy Chambers, Rick Minard, Kate Peters

- A list of energy legislation (attached) was provided prior to the call by Ben Frost. Kate Peters asked the group to identify any bills they wished to discuss.
- Gil Gilineau noted that he had previously been following [SB 123](#) and wondered if anyone had updates. The House committee will be having a full committee work session on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup>. Rick Minard mentioned that there had been some discussions about the interplay between SB123 and HB630, because they both give legislative direction for use of RGGI funds.
- The group then used the attached legislation list as a guide to go through the list of active legislation.
- [HB 306](#) passed out of the Senate Committee and it looks like it will pass the full Senate vote.
- [HB630](#) Will go to the Senate floor next week with an amendment that has at least 15% of RGGI funds retained by the state go to low income programs. This is a change from the House version which had at least 20%. It is unclear at this point whether the bill will go to committee of conference because of the difference.
  - Rick Minard noted that there will be less low income funding overall in the state next year, because a significant portion of RGGI funds are now being rebated to rate payers. (Low income programs had previously been allocated 10% of total RGGI proceeds). Additionally, federal weatherization funding will be lower next year.
  - Gil confirmed that the utility programs have consistently spent 15% of their funding on low income programs, though it has not been a legislative requirement in the past.
- Kate Peters mentioned that a number of bills on the list have been retained and it might be useful on a future call to look at the retained bills to see if there are any where the EESE Board might be interested in participating in the work sessions over the summer. Ben Frost indicated that some house committees have started scheduling work sessions on retained bills already, but none seem to be scheduled yet on energy bills.
- [SB 98](#) is regarding net metering. The House Committee had a lengthy discussion this week. An ITL vote failed and the committee will be continuing work on the bill next week.
- [SB148](#) A new amendment has been proposed with language regarding Concord Steam. Deb Hale was at the hearing and will share a copy when she gets back to her desk.
- [SB191](#) The House Committee had a lengthy discussion today about the makeup of the Council that will be in charge of creating the State Energy Plan. Some legislators were leaning toward a smaller group while others argued for the need to be very inclusive. There will likely be an amendment after additional discussion. There was also concern expressed about where the funding for the plan process would come from.
  - The EESE Board will likely have the opportunity to participate in the Plan development process in some aspect. We do not know yet what the work plan for the Council will look like, so it is a little hard to predict what exactly the role will be.

- The Board may have an opportunity to weigh in on the bill now, as it is being discussed in the House, but there was no suggestion for any particular position the Board should take. Brandy will provide any available update on the legislative discussions at the meeting Friday.
- With no additional legislation brought forward for discussion, the call ended. There will be space on the April 12 agenda for discussion of these legislative items with the full Board.